

# Deaths associated with intimate partner violence, New Jersey, 2003-2007



An Office of Injury Surveillance and Prevention Brief -- May 11, 2009

- Women were 3 times more likely than men to be killed by a current or former intimate partner.
- Among women, rates of intimate partner homicide were highest for black women. However, over age 65, the incidence was highest among white women.
- The two most common weapons used in intimate partner homicide were firearms (35%), and sharp instruments (34%).

**Table 1. Intimate partner homicide by victim's gender, relationship to suspect, New Jersey, 2003-2007**

	Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%
All homicides	1,549	81.8	344	18.2
All IPV homicides	41	22.9	138	77.1
Current spouse	11	26.8	55	39.9
Ex-spouse	-	-	4	2.9
Current or ex-boy/girlfriend	30	73.2	79	57.2
*Same-sex relationships	3	7.3	1	0.7
IPV homicide rate	41	0.3	138	0.9

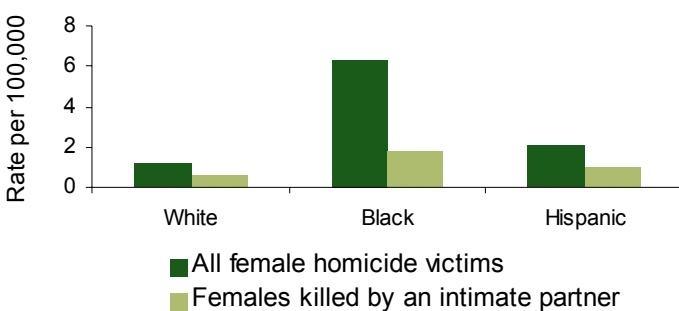
\*Also counted in previous categories

New Jersey resident homicide victims, age 18 years and older.

Rate calculated per 100,000 adults, age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population.

Data source: New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System, v.03/04/2009

**Figure 1. Homicide rates among females by race and ethnicity,<sup>†</sup> New Jersey, 2003-2007**



<sup>†</sup>"White" and "Black" races are non-Hispanic. "Hispanic" can be any race group.

New Jersey resident homicide victims, age 18 years and older.

Rate calculated per 100,000 adults, age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population.

Data Source: New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System, v.03/04/2009

Between 2003 and 2007, 179 New Jersey residents aged 18 and older were killed by an intimate partner, i.e., a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend. Over three quarters of intimate partner homicide victims were women, in contrast to the predominance of males as homicide victims overall. Current or ex-boy/girlfriends were the most common perpetrators of intimate partner homicide against both women and men (57.2% and 73.2%, respectively), but women were more frequently killed by a current or former spouse than men (42.8% versus 26.8%, respectively) (Table 1).

Rates of intimate partner homicide varied by race and ethnicity. Similar to the pattern observed for homicides among women in general, the intimate partner homicide rate was highest among black women (42 deaths; 1.8 per 100,000) compared to white women (64; 0.6) or Hispanic women (24; 1.0). A higher percentage of white women and Hispanic women were killed by an intimate partner (49% and 47%, respectively) than black women (29%) (Figure 1).

The risk of intimate partner homicide also varies with age. Between 2003 and 2007, the highest rate of intimate partner homicide for



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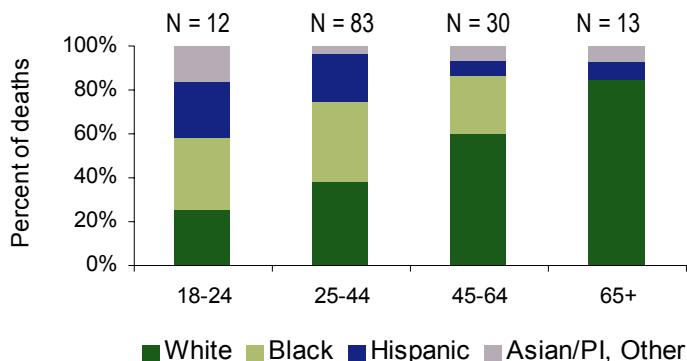


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Commissioner

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services  
Office of Policy  
Center for Health Statistics  
Office of Injury Surveillance and Prevention  
and

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
Division on Women  
Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women  
New Jersey Domestic Violence Fatality and Near  
Fatality Review Board

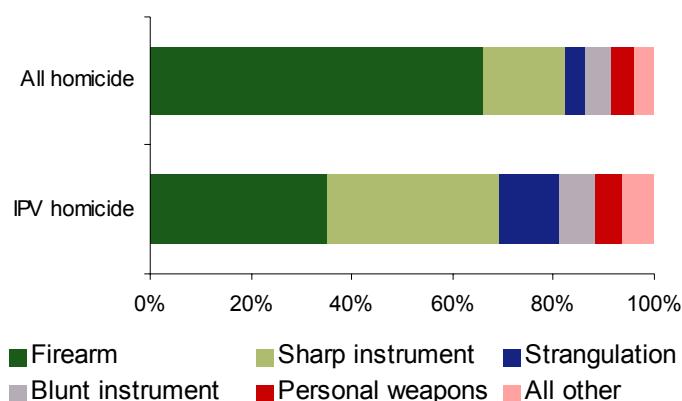
**Figure 2. Race/ethnicity<sup>†</sup> of female intimate partner homicide victims by age group, New Jersey, 2003-2007**



<sup>†</sup>"White", "Black", and "Asian/PI, Other" races are non-Hispanic. "Hispanic" can be any race group.

New Jersey resident female homicide victims, age 18 years and older.  
Data Source: New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System, v.03/04/2009

**Figure 3. Weapons/mechanisms used in New Jersey homicides, 2003-2007**



IPV homicide includes both male and female homicide victims age 18 years and older.  
"All other" includes mechanisms of homicidal injury such as poisoning, falls, fire and burns, and motor vehicles.

Data Source: New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System, v.03/04/2009

women was among 25-44 year olds (83 deaths; 1.3 per 100,000). Within this age group, black women were homicide victims at more than 3.5 times the rate of white women (30 deaths, 3.2 per 100,000 compared to 32 deaths, 0.9 per 100,000). Older female victims of intimate partner homicide, however, were predominantly white (Figure 2).

The type of weapon used during intimate partner violence differs from overall homicide, where firearms were used in approximately two-thirds of all incidents. While firearms were the most frequently used weapon (35%), nearly as many intimate partner homicides were committed with a sharp instrument (34%). The remaining victims were strangled or beaten to death, either with an instrument or with fists and feet (Figure 3). Of the 63 intimate partners killed by a firearm in New Jersey, 53 (84%) were women. Twenty out of 21 intimate partners who were strangled were women (95%).

One type of intimate partner homicide is dominated by the use of firearms. Firearms were used in 70% of murder-suicides perpetrated by intimate partners. Of the 43 victims killed by their intimate partners who then completed suicide, 30 were shot. All but one of the 43 victims of intimate partner murder-suicide were women killed by men.

The full report prepared by the New Jersey Office of Injury Surveillance and Prevention and the New Jersey Domestic Violence Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board on domestic and intimate partner violence in New Jersey will be released later in 2009.

The New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System (NJVDRS) is a CDC-funded surveillance system, a collaborative effort of the Office of Injury Surveillance and Prevention, Center for Health Statistics of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the Violence Institute of New Jersey at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The project seeks to help researchers determine the circumstances and risk factors associated with homicide and other violent deaths by linking timely data from multiple detailed sources.

NJVDRS has collaborated with the New Jersey Domestic Violence Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board, Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women, Division on Women, Department of Community Affairs to produce this brief. Further information on intimate partner and domestic violence and prevention efforts can be found at the Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dow>.



The New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement U17/CE001317-02 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).